

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region I

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Environmental News

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EPA COMPLETES CAPPING IRON HORSE PARK ASBESTOS SITE

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BOSTON -- The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed capping exposed asbestos at the Iron Horse Park Superfund site in Billerica, MA, it was announced today.

EPA Regional Administrator Michael R. Deland said, "We spent three months and a little over one million dollars to provide adequate cover over exposed asbestos materials. We did this emergency action to contain the substantial health threat to hundreds of individuals that live near the industrial park." Friable (able to be crumbled) asbestos is a known carcinogen.

EPA provided a thirty-inch gravel, stone and topsoil cover on the exposed asbestos deposits. The Agency monitored for airborne asbestos in 25 private residences and several industries in and near the industrial park, and fenced and posted the property. Results of sampling were below detection limits.

Several partially buried 55-gallon drums discovered during the field work were excavated and sent to a licensed hazardous waste disposal facility. The drums contained asbestos, sludges, and acids.

This week, EPA completed resampling the nearby residences and industries for airborne asbestos. EPA also mapped the location of all asbestos deposits; this information will be used to determine future land use limitations.

The asbestos landfill at Iron Horse Park is approximately 15 acres in area with variable depth, adjacent to an industrial park that employs over 300 people. It is 300 feet from a residential area with approximately 200 residents. The exposed asbestos deposits are located randomly throughout the entire property and beyond the limits of the landfill.

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EPA has also authorized \$700,000 from Superfund for studies to determine the best long term cleanup methods at Iron Horse Park. These studies will include several sub-sites in addition to the asbestos landfill.

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Note to Editor: EPA's On-Scene Coordinator will conduct a site tour and answer questions about the capping project on Thursday, November 8 at 10:00 a.m.

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